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ABSTRACT

Children and adolescents are prone to develop a range of social problems in family and peer relationships, mental health, substance abuse, and school performance. With a reduction in support available to them in many family environments, peer relationships become increasingly important. A number of the social problems children and adolescents face are amenable to intervention through group work, and those who are stressed may benefit from the coping skills acquired through group intervention. The concepts of a problem-solving approach to group work are presented in the first section of this book. Chapter One describes the social and environmental context of group work with children and adolescents. Chapter Two relates the problem-solving approach to group work. Chapter Three describes the use of planning, composition, and assessment to form effective groups. Chapter Four contains the purposes and types of evaluation of group work with children and adolescents. Chapter Five reviews research on the effectiveness of group work with children and adolescents. The second part of the book focuses on applications of the problem-solving approach to group work. Chapter Six discusses group work with children and adolescents in families where a separation or divorce has occurred. Chapter Seven examines group work to improve peer relationships and social competence. Chapter Eight describes the use of group work with children and adolescents who are at risk for developing mental health and substance abuse disorders. Group work aimed at increasing the achievement levels of children and adolescents with academic problems is considered in the final chapter. (Contains 317 references.) (Author/JDM)

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